

# The TALON

Avila College Student Voice

DECEMBER 4, 1996

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## Censorship takes center stage: Administration enforces college values

by Ben Henry

Following the production of the play *Rumors*, a comedy that ran from Oct. 3 through Oct. 6 in Goppert Theater, the Avila College Administration, citing the mission of the college, reminded the Theater Department that the verbal content of some plays is unreflective of the college's values.

There has been a mutual understanding between the administration and the Theater Program since the college opened, a trust that leaves it to the discretion of the program to censor itself.

Despite overwhelmingly positive responses to the production of *Rumors*, a complaint, pertaining to the "offensive language" of the play, prompted the administration to take action.

"I think language of that nature," said Dr. Larry Kramer, president of Avila, referring to the language used in *Rumors*, "is inappropriate for production on the Avila campus."

Kramer defended the administration's position, pointing out that the performances in Goppert Theater are open to the public. He went further, saying the

public expects a standard of decency from Avila's theater productions, something they can bring their children to watch.

Dr. Charlene Gould, director of the theater, sees it in a different way. She believes there is plenty of room on the Goppert stage, for both plays the public can bring their children to and plays that deal with more mature situations and subject matter.

"We want to present things that are beneficial to the campus community and the students," Gould said.

Lori Bush Whitsitt, technical director/designer for the theater, agrees with Gould.

"We try to choose plays that are entertaining as well as a learning experience," Bush Whitsitt said. "We don't necessarily choose both for the same show. We

would like the audience to think and be challenged."

With the controversy generated by *Rumors* a hot topic, alterations were made for the final play of the semester, *Getting Out*. This, according to Gould, was a direct result of the administration's action.

*Getting Out*, a play about the struggles of a woman just released from prison, dealt with a much more mature theme than did *Rumors*, but was without the controversial language.

"Theater is an imitation of life," said Sayra Player, a theater major who played Arlene, the woman just released from prison, in *Getting Out*. "Cutting certain words out of a play isn't going to make it go away (in real life)."

Although Player criticized the action taken by the administration, she did stress that she appreciates that they are allowed to perform plays that deal with the subject matter that a play like *Getting Out* does.

"This institution is a learning environment," Kramer said. "This isn't about (me) coming in and saying, 'I'm going to control all of this according to my standards and beliefs.' It's the institution's standards, to which I serve as president."

The words in question, according to Gould, are the "F-word" and the vain use of the name Jesus Christ.

"For every word that someone may

think obscene," said Chris "G" Gerlt, a technical theater major, "there is another word or phrase that means the same thing, a word that is synonymous, that would be okay."

The decision to limit the amount of "offensive language" is based on the mission of the college, defined in the mission statement.

While Gould argues that a variety of plays reflects the diversity of the college, referred to in the Values of Avila College, Fr. Dan Torson, director of campus ministry, defends the identity of Catholic education.

"For me to say as a value statement," Torson said, "that we value the Catholic identity of the college,

means that we value the tradition of what Catholicism has done for education and humankind. That doesn't mean we dictate, or that we try to convert people to Catholicism, but we're simply stating that we're looking at what it is that we value about an institution, such as Avila. Our values come from that and there is a connection there."

**"I think language of that nature is inappropriate for production on the Avila campus."**

**"We try to choose plays that are entertaining as well as a learning experience."**

## Six nursing students attend conference

by Monica Haugness

Nov. 7 through 10 six Avila Nursing students seized an opportunity to gain knowledge about their career field by attending the National Student Nurses Association Midyear Conference in Chicago.

Inspired by a friend who attended a conference in Atlanta, Alaba Sierra-Perez was excited when Avila received an invitation to the 1996 conference. Sierra-Perez's enthusiasm encouraged five other members of the junior nursing class, Amy Gebken, Chachere May, Tynisha Gant, LaKeisha Canady, and Karen Dewberry to join this journey to Chicago. Their attendance marks the first time that Avila has been represented at the conference.

The conference consisted of numerous workshops, exhibitions and panel discussions. Time management, resume writing/interviewing, ethical decisions,

and professional images for nurses were a few workshops the Avila students attended while at the conference.

A mini review course for the NSNA NCLEX EXCEL, was held. This is the major test nurses must pass in order to become R.Ns. It was viewed as a highly beneficial aspect of the conference. The attendees were able to take a sample test, receive preparation tips and review the answers.

When the answers were disclosed, Sierra-Perez beamed with pride while senior students from other institutions grumbled at their incorrect answers. "I was so excited to actually know some of the answers. It made me realize that my education at Avila is really preparing us for the future," Sierra-Perez said.

The conference also included a series called Finding your Niche in Nursing,

where various nursing professionals discussed their area of expertise. Amy Gebken left this session with a new perspective on nursing, "I was introduced to professions I had never thought of before."

Over 1500 nursing students from across the United States attended the conference, and a variety of professionals from the field of nursing participated as panelists and speakers. The intermingling of students and professionals supplied the opportunity to meet new people and explore, in-depth, the field of nursing. Exhibitions displaying various nursing books and supplies as well as graduate school information and career guidance counseling was also offered.

The trip to Chicago was educational as well as cultural and entertaining. Located in the heart of Chicago, the six Avila

students were able to accomplish quality shopping, tour the Shedd Aquarium, and one student, Sierra-Perez, lucked into free pampering at a spa.

"I felt like Ivana Trump, with the spa massages, it was like heaven," Sierra-Perez said about her relaxing evening after a long day of workshops.

The Chicago experience ended on Sunday with a breakfast and farewell speech by General Bettye H. Simmons, deputy commander, U.S. Army Medical Department and School and chief, Army Nurse Corps. Though they hated to leave Chicago, the nursing students returned to Avila refreshed with a new outlook on their career choice.

"It was a great opportunity to meet and hear people who are and have gone through the same struggles. It gives you a sense of hope," Sierra-Perez said.

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Snow White and  
the Seven Dwarfs

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New Athletic  
Improvements



Briefly  
Speaking...

by Laura Harris

**Singers Wanted**

"The Avila Singers" choral group is open to any student, faculty, or staff. The Avila Singers meet twice a week. Students can receive one hour of college credit by enrolling. Scholarship money is also available. No audition is held, simply an informal interview. If you are interested in joining for the spring semester, contact Director John Rudzinski by calling the Humanities Department at ext. 2289.

**Campus Schedules**

Calendars of all campus events are now being posted for on and off campus students. They are printed on hot pink sheets of paper and are located in clear plastic wall pockets. They are located in Borserine, O'Rielly, Marian Center and the library.

**SUB Book Fair**

The Student Union Board will be held in the Marian Center Alumni Lounge on Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 4 and 5.

**ASNO Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Dec. 23. All are invited to attend. Contact the Nursing Department for more information.

**The Family Lodge**

On Saturday, Dec. 21, ASNO is working at a homeless shelter serving food. They will be working at The Family Lodge in Olathe.

**Neuro-Surgical Nurse To Speak**

On Jan. 27, 1997, ASNO will be having a special guest speaker. A neuro-surgical Intensive-Care nurse will be speaking about her job. This will be held in Whitfield Conference Room at 12 p.m.

**Correction**

In the Nov. 6 issue of *The Talon* an error was made in the article "Seen any missing classmates lately".

The Master's of Science in Education **GAINED** 18.9 percent.

## Avila library: thumbs-up

by Sheri Porter

Stationed along a wall, across from the periodical racks in Avila's Hooley-Bundschu Library, stands a relic from the past. A hand printed sign sitting on top of this antique says it all: **Rel-P—This catalog is dead. Please use the BlueStar on-line catalog.**

Old cumbersome systems are out, technology is in, and this change is definitely for the better. Ask Sister Una Marie, Avila's library director since 1970. She remembers when the library was stuffed into the lower level of Blasco Hall, before moving to the current location in 1978.

Current statistics on the library show a building of 18,000 square feet, housing 68,366 books, 493 periodicals and 575 videocassette titles. And that is not all. Sister Una brags about that new technology, and the ability to utilize on-line search services such as FirstSearch, BlueStar, InfoTrac Business Database, and EBSCOHost. Students can also access the Internet.

Avila's library is unique in one sense: "We are one of the few colleges that has the complete ERIC collection," Sister Una said.

She is equally proud of her dedicated library staff of five full-time employees plus 15 work-study students. Of course her dream is continued growth, with a larger building to house more materials.

The real test is this: Does Avila's library measure up to demands of faculty and students?

Dr. Richard Woodall, chair of the business and economics department, gives the library a thumbs up, stressing that the move to electronic access of periodicals is very helpful. At the same time, he acknowledges shortcomings: "There is always

pressure to have more resources. It is a balancing act between cost and need," Woodall said. "Avila has a very good small school library."

Woodall praised the library staff, calling them refreshingly innovative. "The Avila library is very supportive of what we do," he said.

Woodall said that students in the paralegal program utilize the law library at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, which is a very specialized library.

In the natural science department, Chair Dr. Larry Sullivan also applauds the Avila library.

"We're a small college, and the library works to meet our needs," Sullivan said. He too approves of the move toward modernization, saying Avila is "on the right track" and should "continue to expand and support the technological end."

Sullivan describes UMKC's Linda Hall Library as one of the finest libraries in the country, and an additional resource that should not be overlooked by Avila students. It is too expensive for a small college to house all the journals necessary to serve students, Sullivan pointed out.

Also urging patrons to remember Avila's small size is Dona Neuman, chair of social science. However, she tells her students, "go to the Avila library first; they may have what you're looking for."

Neuman pointed out that new materials flow in constantly, and that the librarians are there to

help students access resources.

"Students might as well take advantage of their services," Neuman said.

Keeping current proves to be the library's most difficult task, Neuman acknowledged, because resources are expensive. For that reason, Avila's capability to do on-line bibliographic searches, complete with abstracts, is a big

plus. To supplement the library, Neuman's department has an inter-departmental learning/resource lab for students and faculty, complete with Internet connections and EBSCOHost.

Also stocking an inter-department curriculum library is Dr. Laura Sloan, chair of education and psychology, who said her department keeps close to 1,000 resources, mostly books and journals. At the same time, Sloan appreciates the financial support Avila lends to Hooley-Bundschu Library.

In fact, Sloan does not feel it necessary to send her students off campus for research. However, she added, some students may choose to visit other college or local libraries.

Her one suggestion for improvement? Perhaps the library could be arranged more accessibly for students.

"What we need is more space," Sloan said. "It's not the library's fault."

While the library could be more physically inviting, Sloan continued, "It's important to remember that we are spending money on books, not beauty." Sloan points to the Children's Library, in the Eshbacher Room, noting that 300 to 400 books

have been added there. "It's not a large collection, but it's good," she said.

From a music standpoint, Dr. Cynthia Hukill, temporary co-chair in humanities said: "The library is in a growing phase—it is a real dichotomy of an old system versus new technology. It is doing a good job of making transitions."

In particular, Hukill cheers the recent acquisition of a CD player and the library's challenge of replacing outdated LPs with CDs. That will take time and money, she conceded. First on her wish list is a library listening lab.

In the area of nursing, department Chair Dr. Susan Fetsch stressed that the library has always attempted to remedy concerns voiced by her students. For example, she discovered that students were traveling to other libraries for resources held by Avila. The problem? Students were unaware of mountains of material available on microfilm.

"There is now a plan in place," Fetsch said, "to make journals more accessible."

Not to be overlooked in this jigsaw puzzle of services is inter-library loan. Colleen Kennedy, assistant librarian, reports an average of 15 requests a month, including faculty. The drawbacks to this service are time and money; the library charges \$3.50 per book and \$2 per article with no guarantees on delivery time. Kennedy goes first to the closest, least expensive sources with the longest loan period, widening her search when necessary. Libraries in the Missouri and Kansas metro area usually waive fees.

If not ahead of the game, Hooley-Bundschu Library at least appears to be riding the coattails of the latest technological trends.

**"The library is in a growing phase—it is a real dichotomy of an old system versus new technology. It is doing a good job of making transitions."**

## Avila Dance Team adds new members and looks for support

by Crystal Richardson

As the new and improved Avila dance team walks onto the gym floor, loud boos and rude names are shouted at them.

The Avila dance team is a non-profit organization that supports the athletic teams at Avila. They practice four times a week, and in their spare time, in order to perform at the men's and women's basketball games.

"We are here to perform and support the athletic teams, just like everyone else is supposed to do," said Christal Williams, dance team adviser.

This year's dance team has all new members, except captain Lori Niermeier. New members are Therese Cox, Mindy Corder,

Mary Dykstra, Jennifer Hillis, Brandie Klotz, and co-captain Sara Bellanti.

In years past, the "Spirit Squad" had had a bad reputation. This year, however, no one really knows who the dance team is, and has no idea why they dance.

"We dance because we like to dance and support the athletic teams," said Corder.

Most people at Avila do not know who the dance team is, and if they do know, they laugh and consider the team a joke.

One student said,

"The dance team is okay, but I don't think they really support the athletic teams as much as they should."

Dispelling such beliefs is the reason the new and improved

Avila dance team is trying to earn the respect they deserve.

"We are not like the old teams, and want the respect that we deserve," said Cox.

The ladies changed their name, hoping to earn some respect, and are continuing the battle to get respect.

The new Avila dance team is performing at basketball games in January and February.



Photo by Dave Sheller

**PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT**  
THERESE COX (ON A KNEE),  
JENNIFER HILLIS, MARY PYLOSTRA,  
KELLEY MORRIS, LORI  
NIERMEIER, SARA BELLANTI,  
MINDY CORDER  
**NOT PICTURED:** BRANDIE KLOTZ,  
ADVISER, CHRISTAL WILLIAMS



## Where's your mustache? A national campaign to get students to drink more milk

by Kelly Turner

Although many people believe that college students are too busy to worry about their health, a new survey by Roper Starch Research, in conjunction with *Rolling Stone* magazine, reveals just the opposite. In fact, 98 percent of college students report that they try to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

However, 74 percent of the 500 students surveyed admit to drinking less than one glass of milk per day. These statistics have led to what the National Institute of Health (NIH) has called a calcium crisis among college students.

"College students are depriving themselves of a mineral that is essential for helping to build bone mass during growth years, maintain bone density as an adult and slow the rate of bone loss caused by aging," said

Dr. Susan Barr, professor of nutrition at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

In order to maintain a calcium-rich diet, the NIH suggests students drink at least three 8-ounce glasses of milk each day.

The NIH also recommends students monitoring their fat-intake drink skim or 1 percent milk.

"The current obsession with fat and calories has college students cutting

out meals and certain foods that their bodies need," Barr said. "The calcium crisis is frightening because college-age students are unaware of the effects that a calcium deficient diet can have on their bodies in the future."

In an attempt to re-route college students dieting habits, the NIH has launched the Milk, Where's Your Mustache? campaign.

The campaign includes a nationwide-100-college campus tour, a Web

analysis from a personal trainer based on their age, sex and personal goals.

By entering this information, students will receive a customized fat, calorie and calcium analysis with suggestions for better eating.

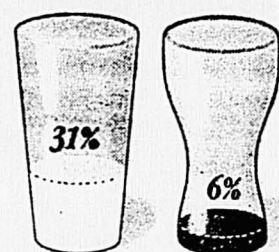
To customize a diet with a personal trainer, or to order a free Milk, Where's Your Mustache? calendar, visit the Why Milk? Web site at: <http://www.whymilk.com>, or call 1-800-WHY-MILK.

### ADVANTAGE: College Student Milk Drinkers

College students who drink milk tend to lead a healthier lifestyle than college students who don't drink milk:

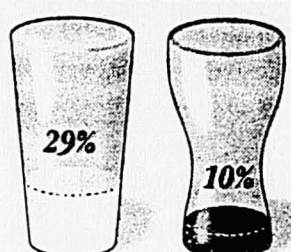
#### > Exercise

College milk drinkers say they exercise regularly compared to students who drink milk less than once a week.



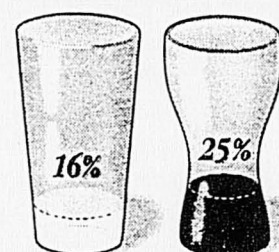
#### > Calcium watch

Milk drinkers are three times more likely to watch the amount of calcium they get in their diets than non-milk drinkers.



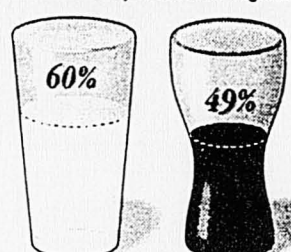
#### > Fast food

Milk drinkers eat fast food less frequently than non-milk drinkers.



#### > Eating vegetables

Milk drinkers versus non-milk drinkers are more likely to eat their vegetables.



Source: College Eating Index survey, conducted by Roper Starch Worldwide and *Rolling Stone* magazine, 1996.

site which links students to personal trainers, plus a free Milk 101 calendar which offers tips and recipes to help busy students achieve daily milk recommendations.

The calendar also features several new celebrities sporting their milk mustaches.

The Web site offers visitors a customized diet/nutrition

## COLLEGE CONTRADICTION...

*A gap between dietary ideals and behavior exists among college-age students. A quick look at the facts and reality according to the College Eating Index:*

### What students say...

- 98% of college students are concerned about being healthy
- 80% of college students say that they eat a well-balanced diet
- 50% of students say they watch their fat-intake

### What students do...

- Only 52% say they regularly have a well-balanced meal.
- 75% agree they should be eating healthier

Dear Avila Community,

I encourage you to promote our undergraduate and graduate programs to prospective students and teachers who can recommend Avila College to their own students.

Please use this form to give us the name and address of prospective students who could be interested in Avila programs so we can send them recruitment materials.

You may also use the form to send us contact information for teachers or other potential referral sources.

Indicate whether the name you give us is a student prospect or a potential referral person.

Please return the information to:

Admissions Office  
Avila College  
11901 Wornall Road  
Kansas City, MO 64145

Tel. 1-800-GO-AVILA or (816) 942-8400 ext. 3500

FAX (816) 942-3362

e-mail address:

Admissions@mail.Avila.edu

This person is a: \_\_\_\_\_ potential student

\_\_\_\_\_ teacher or influencer who could refer students to Avila

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Program of Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Term / Year of Desired Enrollment (e.g. Fall '97): \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact's name and class year:

Maiden name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please feel free to make multiple copies.

Thank you for your time,

Anne Meservey,  
Director of Enrollment Services



# FEATURES

## Where are they now?

Avila graduates succeeding in the real world

By Lori Gibson

As the semester comes to an end, and a new one begins, it is once again time to pay tuition. Every semester, as students sign thousands of dollars over to Avila, doubt plays in their minds. Is my education really worth this amount? Where is this going to get me in life?

All students have these mental debates. In an attempt to find out just what an Avila education can do, I located three Avila graduates to see where Avila has taken them in life.

Mary Ann Cappo, president of the board at Highlawn Montessori School, graduated from Avila in 1982. Her degree in Montessori and elementary education allows her to hold the position she does today. Although Avila is no longer a training center for Montessori, at the time it was the only college in the nation offering the dual degree. That was Cappo's primary reason for choosing Avila.

"I have the absolute best Montessori training there is," Cappo said.

The degree of training Cappo received was a direct result of Ms. Lena. Ms. Lena studied under Dr. Maria Montessori, the developer of the Montessori method. Ms. Lena traveled to Avila twice a year to administer the training.

"The training with Ms. Lena was incredible," Cappo said. "I would put my training up against any other teacher."

The rest of the year, Cappo studied elementary education.

"If someone wanted to go into early childhood education I would recommend Avila wholeheartedly," Cappo said. "It's the best early childhood education program I've ever seen."

Cappo moved to Lawrence after graduation and found a job shortly thereafter. She taught until she had

children, then chose to stay at home.

"I use the method I learned to parent, as well as I did to teach," Cappo said.

If Cappo chose to teach again, she is confident she would have no problem finding a job today with her degree. She says her education at

photo provided by Avila was Mary Ann Cappo "comprehensive."



MARY ANN CAPPO, 1982 GRADUATE, WITH HER SON.

The word comprehensive sums up how Mike Maupin, a 1993 graduate, feels about his education as well.

"Avila prepared me in every way for my career field," Maupin said. "I received an excellent

education there."

Maupin presently uses his degree in communication as a video editor/production assistant for American Media Group. American Media Group produces television commercials. Before accepting this position, he did freelance work.

"I thought about freelancing and liked the idea, but I decided I needed more experience so I could obtain a wider customer base," Maupin said.

Maupin began freelancing after he was laid off from Black & Veatch, his first job. He worked as a video communication specialist for two and a half years before Black & Veatch downsized, taking out their whole video department. He produced internal videos for purposes such as training and marketing.

"Avila was very helpful in finding my first job," Maupin said. "I networked with one of my professors. Networking is seventy percent of finding a job today."

Although Maupin is probably most remembered by Avila for an article he wrote criticizing the dorms that was published in *The Talon*, he remembers Avila the most for the well-rounded education he received, the student to teacher ratio, and his

favorite teacher.

"I can't say enough nice things about Doty Hamilton," Maupin said. "She is an excellent teacher and really motivated me to excel in my studies."

Whitney Walters feels the same way about a teacher she had.

"Janet Ahlstrom was a great mentor," Walters said.

Walters, a May 1996 graduate, received her Bachelor's of Science degree in nursing. She presently is employed at KU Medical Center as a pediatric nurse.

photo provided by Anita Pileggi



She worked as a nurse aid at KU for two years prior to graduation. This, along with her degree, helped to get her foot in the door.

Walters feels she learned the most she could while at Avila.

WHITNEY WALTERS 1996 GRADUATE

Walters originally chose Avila because she liked the small, private atmosphere, as well as the student to teacher ratio. These factors, along with the quality of the professors, helps Walters to have an edge over other new nurses.

"There is another new graduate that was hired along with me," Walters said. "I feel I have skills she does not have."

Walters hopes to continue what she is doing now. She feels that, because of her degree from Avila, she will be able to.

"Avila's nursing program is the oldest in Kansas City," Walters said. "It has a great reputation."

As you write the huge check for tuition, consider what these former students had to say, and breathe easy. It is worth it!

## Cheap things to eat and places to go

by Amanda Nedrud and Mary Lopez

If you are like most people, wanting to take your date out for dinner but not wanting to have to shell out the big bucks, then read on! We have a menu and drink special for every night of the week, designed for the struggling student.

### Monday

Monday Night Football brings us to Barleys Brewhaus at 11924 W. 119th St. Here you can watch the game and eat a Big Barley Burger. You also get a side of either french fries or a tossed salad. All this for \$3.50. The drink special varies from week to week.

### Tuesday

It's Taco Tuesday Night! At Tanners, located at 10146 W. 119th St. You get tacos for 50 cents each (No limit on tacos either). Wash them down with \$2.00 margaritas and Coronas.

### Wednesday

It's Homecookin' on Wednesday as Freddy T's gives you a meat loaf dinner served with mash potatoes/gravy, salad, and a roll. All this for \$4.25. Also, Freddy invites you to try a Big Fred for \$1.50, a 10oz draft beer of your choice. (What were you thinking a Big Fred was?) Freddy T's is located at 9922 Holmes.

### Thursday

Nachos! Nachos! Nachos! Thursday night, try Applebee's Bar and Grill located at either 1046 W. 103rd St. or 11000 Metcalf Ave. Half-priced nachos, and margaritas on the rocks or frozen, for only \$2.75. Applebee's also serves half priced mozzarella sticks and buffalo chicken wings after 10 p.m.

### Friday

Friday is dinner and a movie. First you go to Whisker Rivey's Neighborhood Bar and Grill, located at 11124 Holmes, and eat dinner. They have one special, smoked chicken topped with salsa and monterrey jack cheese, served with a bed of rice and steamed vegetables for \$7.50. Then you go to a movie, or maybe find another way to waste time until the Bar and Grill opens up the bar for half-priced drinks at 9 p.m. They do this to accommodate the movie crowd.

### Saturday

Saturday, Avila faculty offer a free meal to students. It is called "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner?" This is how it works. You can sign up in Marian Center or contact Barb Remsburg at ext. 2370. Once a month, a faculty member at Avila opens up his/her home for a visit and a free meal. How is that for cheap?

### Sunday

Sunday is left-over night. Remember all those places you ate during the week. Well, didn't you have leftovers? If you don't, the phone number for Pizza Hut is 648-8888. They deliver every night up to midnight.

## The Twelve Days of Christmas:

Twelve meaningful gifts you can give this Christmas without spending a fortune.

by Kelly Turner

"Oh no! Only twelve days until Christmas and I'm still too broke to do my Christmas shopping!"

Sound familiar? If so, allow the following list to guide you through the Christmas season, and to help relieve the financial headache it tends to bring. You really do not have to spend a fortune to put the spirit of giving back into Christmas!

1. Leave your spare change in the vending machine or pay phone.
2. Send a thank-you letter to your favorite clerk at the gas station, bank, grocery store, etc.
3. Pay for the next person's order in the drive-thru and drive away.
4. Return your grocery cart to the store rather than the corrals in the parking lot.

5. Clip coupons you never use and place them by the products in the store for public use.
6. Send a card to your favorite teacher, past or present.
7. Secretly shovel a neighbor's driveway.
8. Serve dinner for the homeless at a homeless shelter.
9. Go Christmas caroling to a hospital or nursing home.
10. Donate the coat or sweater you never wear anymore to a local charity.
11. Offer the mail carrier a cup of hot coffee, tea, or cocoa.
12. Tell an in-law how special he or she is (just do not laugh while you are doing it).



## Answers to Crossword on Pg. 11





# FEATURES

The Talon page 5

## Hi-ho, hi-ho; it's off to Avila we go

### "Doc"

Dr. Nancy Cervetti



Dr. Nancy Cervetti will not be able to fix you up if you are hurt or sick, like Doc from Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, but she can diagnose your grade as long as you read the material for class. Dr. Cervetti earned her Ph.D. in English, from the University of Iowa, in 1993, as well as specializations in 19th-century British Literature and Feminist Theory.

Dr. Cervetti said, "I have always loved reading literature, both for the pleasure and experience and all that I learn about the world."

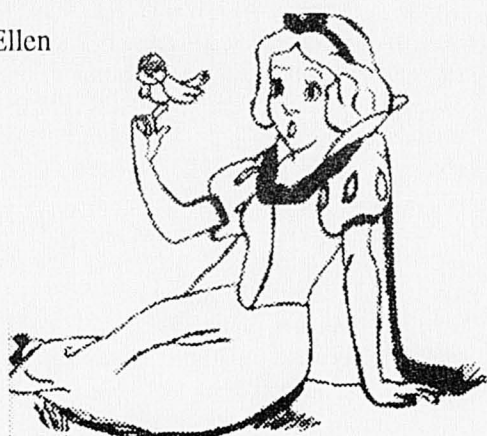
--Dave Sheller

Do not be alarmed, there are no poisoned apples on campus; rather a gathering of tremendous personalities, making it a chore for the students, enrolled in Feature Writing, to come up with just one Avila individual to profile. With creative thinking caps in place, Hi-ho-hi-ho, it was off to work they went, developing a unique way to represent a few campus faces. The end result.....

Avila's very own Snow White and her Seven Dwarfs.

### "SNOW WHITE"

Sister Ellen



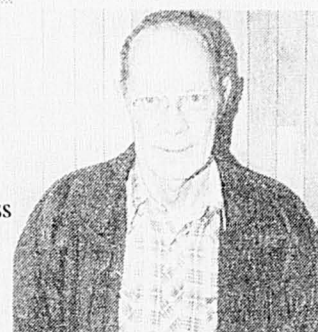
Sister Ellen is a loving and giving person. She takes care of not just her seven dwarfs, but the many other dwarfs on campus. She prays for those in need, and gives caring, kind words to those who cross her path. She is a person of her convictions, and her values are admired by many. She is like an angel on campus because her thoughts and prayers are with all of us. And for all these reasons and more, that is why Sister Ellen is Snow White!

--Diana Dierks



### "Grumpy"

Art Schlumpberger



It is not hard to guess who would receive the title of Avila's Grumpy. It is none other than our very own head of maintenance, Art G. Schlumpberger. It has been rumored that Art has informed people that his middle initial of "G" actually does stand for Grumpy. But just like Snow White's Grumpy, Art has a heart of gold beneath the gruff exterior. Who else would climb into the window of sixth floor Ridgway Hall at 3:30 a.m. to free a resident who had the misfortune of being locked in her room?

--Laura Harris



Mike Derting was chosen "Sleepy" to be Sleepy because he fell asleep in class and did not do it very inconspicuously. Once, in his Survey of Film class, he laid on the floor to view that week's movie. In the meantime he fell asleep.

That would probably go unnoticed since the lights were out, but Derting snored so loudly that everyone laughed at him. People kept trying to wake him up by hitting him on his shoes but he did not rise until after the lights had come back on and the movie was over.

--Delaina Renfro

### "Happy"

Stephanie McElwee



Only the happiest people in the world cheerfully smile as they cook your french fries in a smoldering vat of grease, or fry your cheeseburger specifically to your liking.

And very few can wish you a wonderful day and truly mean it, but Stephanie, Avila's snack bar cashier, does—and does it every day! Happy dwarf has nothing on her! Thanks for making us smile, Stephanie!

--Kelly Turner



### "Sneezy"

Mike Kruse

This dwarf, of tall stature, has been plagued by a lifetime of asthma and allergy problems, qualifying him for the title of snifflly Sneezy. As a child, his older brother enjoyed torturing him with a sneezing game. He would hold dusty stuffed animals in front of his asthmatic little brother and test how many times he

would sneeze. The record number of consecutive sneezes was 25. Following this game, our Sneezy, would wheeze for a while, but after a dose of medication would regain his composure.

Avila's Sneezy, Mike Kruse, is a sophomore majoring in theater.

--Monica Haugness



### "Dopey"

Dave Sheller



Avila has its own little Dopey. What makes him worthy of the title of Dopey? Our Dopey enrolled in the Women in Literature class in the hopes that it would enhance his ability to get a date. Dopey is none other than The Talon Chief Photographer, Dave Sheller. Dave is a Communication major, a member of Alpha Kappa Lambda fraternity, and a member of the baseball team. If Avila classes do not fulfill Dave's dreams of a date, at least they will leave him prepared for a career in the entertainment business, if being a clown can be called entertainment.

--Laura Harris



### "Bashful"

Jamie Rowlett



With a low key approach to life, it is not surprising that someone would think Jamie Rowlett to be bashful. Aside from being a standout on the soccer field and firm in his conviction to the pursuit of academia, Rowlett has the reputation of a low-profile, no nonsense kind of guy.

Like the blushing character in Snow White, Rowlett is not the kind of person who talks all the time. His philosophy on life is, "Doubt whom you will, but never yourself."

--Ben Henry





# INSIDE AVILA

PERHAPS THE MOST TELLING EXAMPLE OF THE MISSION OF AVILA COLLEGE, A SISTER TAKES A MOMENT TO ASSIST A FELLOW SISTER AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE OF WHAT WOULD EVENTUALLY BECOME THE MARIAN CENTER IN 1962. SISTERS HAD THE OPTION OF ABANDONING THE HABIT, BUT CHOSE TO REMAIN WEARING IT.



Avila turns  
80, proving  
tradition in  
academic  
excellence  
for almost a  
century



**A**vila College was born in a log cabin more than 125 years ago. Although it has only existed under the Avila name since 1963, the college has a history that dates back to the early days of Kansas City. From its founding, just after the bloody years of the Civil War, near the Quality Hill area, to the present campus in the city's southern suburbs, Avila College has literally grown up with Kansas City.

In 1836, six Sisters of St. Joseph left Lyons, France, bound for America. Originally settling in the St. Louis area, they founded a convent in Kahokia, Illinois, and a school for the deaf near St. Louis.

Located in Carondelet, today this is the internationally known Saint

Joseph's Institute for the Deaf.

In 1866, the mother superior of the St. Louis congregation sent six of the sisters to Kansas City to found a school. In

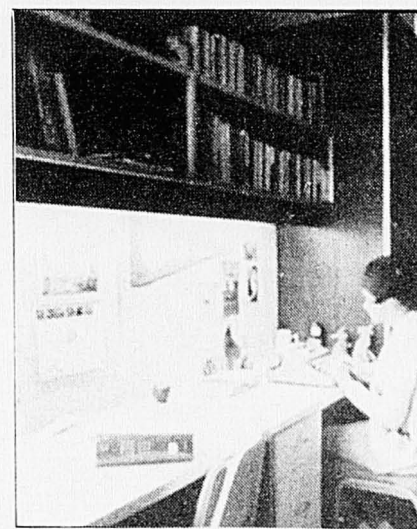
September of 1866, classes began in St. Joseph's Academy, with approximately 140 students. The following year the name was changed to St. Teresa's Academy.

Kansas City was the starting point for the frontier trails to the West. It was the major destination for anyone travelling west, whether by steamboat, or overland, by covered wagon. Some of St. Teresa's first students were the children of families

bound for Oregon or California. Concerned for their safety, the parents chose to leave their children in this last outpost of civilization; to send for when they had become established in the West.

By 1869, the first bridge across the Missouri River was built in Kansas City. Known as Hannibal Bridge, it opened up the West to even greater numbers of settlers; 260,000 crossed the first year the bridge opened. At this time, St. Teresa's students began to arrive in Kansas City by way of the railroad.

St. Teresa's provided a Catholic education for girls at the Quality Hill location for 40 years, but over those years the area changed from a residential to a business district. In 1910, St. Teresa's Academy moved to a 20 acre campus at 5600 Main Street, built on land that had been purchased from J.C. Nichols.

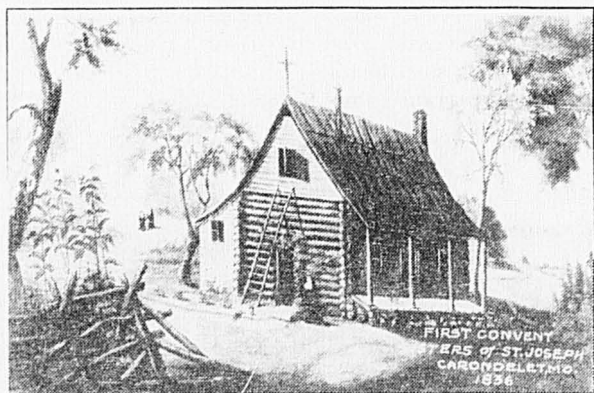


CARONDELET HALL WAS ORIGINALLY HALF CONVENT, HALF DORMITORY. THE SISTERS INHABITED THE FIRST FLOOR, WHILE STUDENTS TOOK UP THE SECOND AND THIRD FLOORS. WITH THE ADDITION OF THE CONVENT IN 1967, CARONDELET HALL WAS COMPLETELY TURNED OVER TO STUDENTS.

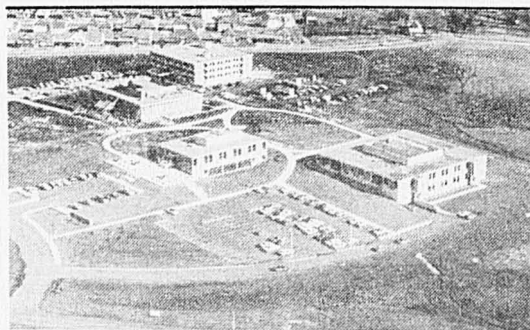
Nichols desired the relocation of St. Teresa's to this area as it would spur his planned development of the Country Club Plaza area.

In 1916, the Sisters of Saint Joseph organized a junior college on the campus of Saint Teresa's

Academy. Called Saint Teresa's College, Margaret O'Rielly would become its first graduate in 1918. She would play an important role in the development of



THE ORIGINAL MOTHER HOUSE IN CARONDELET MISSOURI WAS THE SITE THAT THE SISTERS FIRST SETTLED IN UPON THEIR ARRIVAL TO AMERICA OVER 125 YEARS AGO. LOCATED NEAR ST. LOUIS, THE SISTERS IMMEDIATELY BEGAN THEIR MISSION OF EDUCATION, FOUNDING THE ST. JOSEPH'S INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF AND ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY.



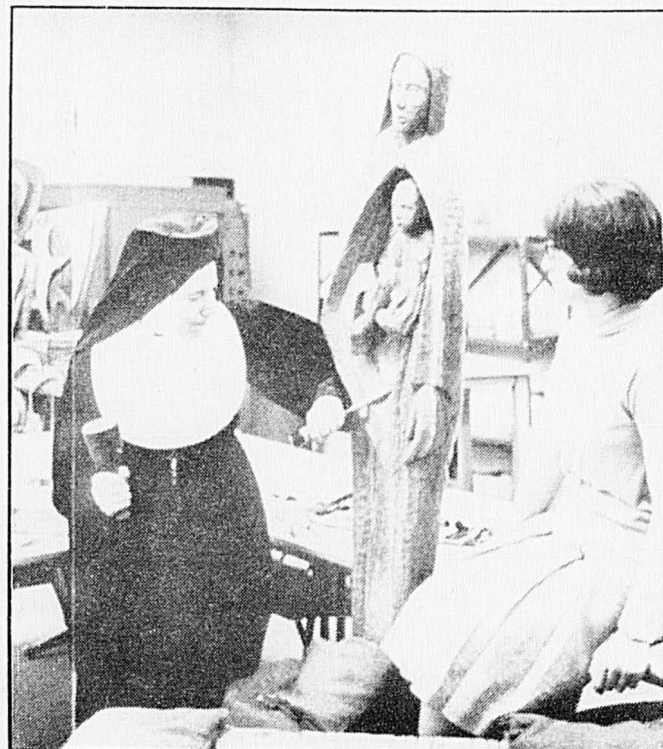
ONLY FOUR BUILDINGS GRACED THE AVILA CAMPUS AT IT'S BIRTH. IN 1966, AVILA RECEIVED AN URBAN DESIGN AWARD, AND THE BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED AFTER 1966 HAVE CONTINUED IN THE SAME STYLE.



## Defining the Avila Experience

*Avila College, and its predecessors, have always set high standards of values and beliefs. In 1986, Dr. Larry Kramer, Avila's first lay and first male president, led the campus community to identify and define these values. These are the essence of "The Avila Experience." The Avila Community Values:*

- ◊ Excellence in teaching and learning
- ◊ The Catholic identity of the college
- ◊ The sponsorship and contributions of the Sisters of Saint Joseph
- ◊ The worth, dignity, and potential of each human being
- ◊ Diversity and its expression
- ◊ Commitment to the continual growth of the whole person
- ◊ Interaction with and service to others



BEGINNING IN 1963, SISTER JOAN LOUISE CLISH, FROM THE ART PROGRAM, BEGAN TO FILL UP THE CAMPUS WITH HER ARTWORK. AMONG HER PROJECTS ARE THE WOODEN STATUES OF ST. JOSEPH AND ST. TERESA.

Avila College years later.

In 1940, The College of Saint Teresa became a four year institution. The student body was comprised of 181 students. The next year marked the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in the then-frontier town of Kansas City.

By 1943, with America involved in World War II, many businesses were having a labor shortage as men were sent to the Front. Some St. Teresa's students took part-time jobs at Wolferman's, Hall's and other department stores and businesses on the nearby Country Club Plaza.

Kansas City was still recovering from the devastating '51 flood when male students were admitted (initially only on a part-time, evening basis) to St. Teresa's

College for the first time in 1952. Male residential students were first housed at the Avila College campus in 1972.

In 1960, then president of The College of Saint Teresa, Sister Mary Daniel Tammany, announced a planned

move to the newly expanding southern edge of Kansas City. This would allow for both St. Teresa's Academy and The College of Saint Teresa to expand and to establish separate identities. College enrollment had increased significantly; there were now 500 day and evening students.

By May 4, 1960, a fifty acre tract of prime real estate was purchased for the new college campus. Located at the intersection of two of old Kansas City's historic roads, Santa Fe and Wornall, the property had been a farm home. The nearly \$200,000 needed for this purchase came from Margaret O'Rielly, who, upon her death, bequeathed her estate to the college for capital improvements. Ground was broken in November of 1962, with Msgr. Joseph Sullivan and

Kansas City Mayor H. Roe Bartle turning the first spadefuls of dirt.

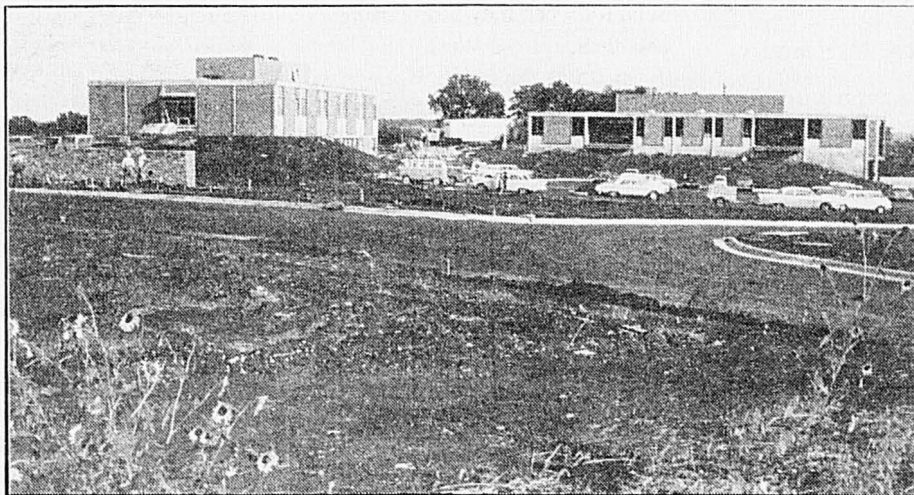
In 1961, Sister Olive Louise Dallavis was appointed president of the College. She had previously served as acting president, after illness forced Sister Mary Daniel Tammany to resign the position. Sister Olive Louise would guide the college through many significant changes over the next two decades, as America went through the turbulent '60s, the Viet Nam Era, and significant revisions in religious custom brought about by Vatican II.

Classes began in O'Rielly Hall in the fall of '63, although the building was far from finished. Students and professors had to conduct class over the din of construction, and the window glass had yet to be

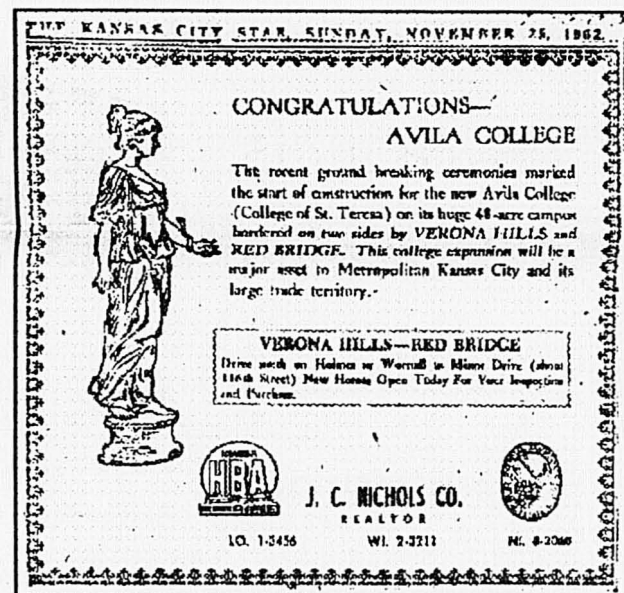
installed. The campus would expand quickly over the next few years. Blasco Hall was completed in 1965; the sister's residence hall and chapel in 1967. In 1978, the Hooley-Bundschu Library opened.

Students and faculty moved books from the old library to the new, by hand, over Christmas break. The Thomas R. Zarda athletic complex was constructed in 1991, and the Dallavis Communication Center opened in 1994.

The Avila College Board of Trustees has selected Mackey Mitchell Zahner Associates to create a master plan of expansion, renovation, and beautification. With ample room for expansion on the current campus, this plan will guide Avila College in its future growth and development. As the suburbs continue to expand ever southward, Avila College will become, even more, both a physical and spiritual center of Kansas City.



THE SITE THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH CHOSE FOR AVILA COLLEGE WAS ON THE OUTER EDGE OF KANSAS CITY. MANY HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOWED THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE COLLEGE, WHICH LED TO THE UPSURGE OF THE BEAUTIFUL NEIGHBORHOODS AROUND THE CAMPUS. THIS PHOTO SHOWS AVILA UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN 1962. THE \$200,000 SITE WAS PURCHASED BY MARGARET O'RIELLY, WHO BEQUEATHED THE ESTATE TO THE COLLEGE FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT UPON HER DEATH.



IN 1960, WITH THE ANNOUNCED MOVE OF THE COLLEGE OF ST. TERESA, THE SISTERS BEGAN LOOKING FOR LAND ON WHICH TO BUILD THEIR NEW COLLEGE. A FIFTY ACRE TRACT AT THE EXTREME EDGE OF THE CITY SEEMED RIGHT. SISTER MARY DANIEL TAMMANY BURIED A MEDAL OF ST. JOSEPH, THE PATRON SAINT OF REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS, AND PRAYED THEY COULD PURCHASE THE LAND. THE J. C. NICHOLS COMPANY HAD BEEN INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING THIS PARTICULAR TRACT OF LAND, BUT APPARENTLY THE SISTERS' PRAYERS WERE HEARD. THEY WERE ABLE TO PURCHASE THE SITE "RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER MY NOSE," AS MILLER NICHOLS, OF THE J. C. NICHOLS COMPANY, IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID. TODAY, THE SITE IS AMIDST SOME OF THE MOST DESIRABLE SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOODS THAT GRACE THE KANSAS CITY AREA.



Story by Lee Walkington. Layout by Mike Adams. Headline photo of 80th birthday cake by Dave Sheller. All other photos courtesy of Sr. Una Marie Brumback and Jeff Randolph.



# MEMORIES

## All I want for Christmas... The Talon members share their memories Table for 20: and always room for more

by Monica R. Haugsness

Originally, the oak dining room table was the perfect size for the family of eight to gather around and partake of scrumptious delights. But, the six young children began to grow.

The oldest returned from college with the first stranger, her beau, to join the once exclusive family festivities.

Soon, more significant others paraded in and my mother's philosophy, "there is always room for more," was practiced as an extra leaf was added.

Over the course of time, fortunate significant others

became permanent family members. With four in-laws seated, an additional leaf was needed. Following close behind was the pitter-patter of grandchildren, the final leaf put in place.

Today, our dining room table stretches across the entirety of the Victorian dining room. A second table became essential.

As the family has flourished, our holidays have resembled Halloween. Finding seating has not been the only trick, but scheduling has become a struggle. During childhood the

excitement of the holidays, especially Christmas, existed in the actual day. My freshman year of college, this tradition, like the table, was adjusted.

Dec. 19 was our Christmas Day. Glancing around the dining room, a warmth surrounded me. It mattered not that we celebrated on "the day," the only necessity was that the dining room be filled to capacity.

The entire family gathered together; this is the true treat of the Haugsness family holidays.

## Christmas slumber, Harris style

by Laura Harris

As a four-year-old, the suspense of Christmas Eve is unbearable.

When my brother, Donald, was this age, he crept into my room one year telling me that Santa had already been there and it was time to get up.

He came to me, his older, wiser, more mature five-year-old sister, to help guide him in his journey into "big kid land."

I assured him that yes, it was time to get up, and off we went to proclaim the joyous news to mom and dad.

The time on this special morning was 3:30 a.m. Donald and I bounded into our parents' room, anxious to

share the joys of the season with them.

Dad, who has never been a morning person, simply assumed it was a reasonable hour and got up. Mom looked at the clock, laughed, rolled over and went back to sleep.

By this time Dad had realized what time it was, but had already agreed we could get up; he was trapped.

He took us downstairs and let us each open one present, and then it was back to bed until nine.

Donald and I had him promise us, cross his heart and hope to die, that he would set his alarm and come get us the instant it went off, before journeying back to dreamland.

The story does not end there. The entire following year, my parents tormented us by telling everyone they could lay their hands on exactly what we did.

When Christmas Eve came, they announced that we could each open one present.

Bursting with excitement, Donald and I diligently sat down next to the tree and were handed identical wrapped boxes. In these twin boxes were twin alarm clocks.

Once they were opened, dad proceeded with glee to plug them in our rooms, set the time, and set the alarm for 9:00 a.m. telling us that if we woke them up earlier they would send the presents back to Santa.

## The Wilkerson's Trojan Horse gift

by Katie Wilkerson

Some of my greatest Christmas memories revolve around dark solemn Christmas Eve Masses where we unsuspecting altar servers would become subject to Father Gregory's intense love of incense.

This passion was so strong that when the back doors of the church were opened, great clouds of holy smoke would billow out into the crystal clear magic night.

But, I think last year my four siblings and I learned a great lesson through a very special gift.

I remember Christmas morning the five of us descended the stairs and proceeded to transform our living room into a spectacle of boxes, gifts and wrapping paper.

We were happy with the gifts that we received, but none of us had gotten the one gift that we had been hoping for since Thanksgiving.

Only one box remained unwrapped, but none of us were really interested in it because, by its shape, it did not suggest anything very promising.

Our parents made us guess what was inside of the six foot long, three foot tall box that resembled an upside down table.

We all agreed that it must be a new desk for the family

computer.

We were allowed to begin the unveiling at one of the "legs" of the box. Soon we discovered that the table box really masked many more boxes that were prospectively addressed to the five of us.

Out of that Trojan horse box came the new CD player and CDs I had been hoping for, Sam's new electric guitar, a keyboard for Jennifer, and for Laura and Will; Gameboys. We also received an upgrade for our computer.

The gifts were nice but our parents made a point with that gift.

Never judge a box or people by their size and shape, because appearances are oftentimes deceiving, and never give up on what you are really hoping for.

Christmas time, in our family, is a time where the seven of us can spend some of the quality time that is so hard to schedule in our busy life circles.

Through the traditions of St. Nicholas Day, the decoration of the tree and Christmas Eve Mass, we are bonded together and are reminded of what Christmas is really about.

I know we will never forget the lesson that our parents taught us last year with the Trojan horse present.



MEMBERS OF THE TALON STAFF HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS ISSUE AND HAVE A SAFE HOLIDAY.

photo by Bem Meade

## The Bullock family bow brigade



by Monica Bullock

I remember several years ago when every Christmas was held at my grandparents' house.

My dad always found some way for that stupid bow, from packages, to get on top of our heads. It always hurt pulling the bow off of my head because I had a full head of hair at 5.

When my sister was almost two, the hair on her head was nonexistent; in other words she was bald.

By the end of opening all of the gifts, my sister had practically every bow on top of her head. It did not matter to her because it never hurt when it came time to pull the package decorations off.

Christmas is the one time of year, now, that is the hardest. We are all grown up and trying to move on with our lives; it is so hard to come together.

However, some way, everyone has time to meet for that one time of year when we celebrate the birth of the one who is allowing us to be the way we are.

Happy holidays, from my family, my friends on *The Talon* staff and me.

## A mantelpiece wonderland

by Sheri Porter

A warm Christmas memory, forever preserved in my heart, centers around my father's magical mantel.

Year after year, he created a winter wonderland on the wooden mantel above the fireplace. His wonderland consisted of simple cardboard houses.

Each year, on a Saturday morning in mid-December, I rushed down the steps from my second story bedroom to find battered brown boxes scattered across the living room floor.

Nestled inside the boxes lay their precious contents, wrapped in yellowed newsprint. My father lovingly unwrapped each old friend, one by one.

Assembling the pieces proved a slow and tedious job. First, a long roll of soft cotton batting transformed a plain wooden mantel into a snowy road.

Seven little houses perched in a row atop the cotton snow. At the end of the block sat a simple white church.

The bungalows, only slightly larger than the milk cartons that came with my school lunch, were constructed of thick colored cardboard. Each unique house sported parchment paper windows and a perfect round hole cut in its backside. A single Christmas bulb filled each house with holiday cheer.

Twigs, carefully selected and saved over the course of



many years, became trees, while many

china dog collection provided some life in this make-believe neighborhood. Plastic cars of red, yellow and blue sank deep into the cotton snow.

The mirror above the mantel held the greatest magic: A miniature version of Santa and his overflowing sleigh, complete with eight white plastic reindeer, hung suspended over those rooftops until New Year's Day.

One year, in a moment of inspiration, my father perched a high intensity reading lamp at the top of the mirror, raining white light down upon the scene like the Star of Bethlehem in a winter sky.

The final touch came in a spray can, as a thick coating of fresh flakes graced the entire scene. When all was complete, I connected the plug to the socket, awakening the street. Warm orange light illuminated the interior of each home.

The fireplace beneath that snowy Christmas scene popped and crackled joyfully every night, all the way through the holiday season. My father insisted on saving the biggest, fattest log for Christmas Eve.

Year after year, friends and neighbors came through our front door, always expecting to see that magical winter scene. Until his death in 1983, my father never disappointed them.

# Happy Holidays from *The Talon*...



## Staff Editorial: Censorship - a wave of the future?

With the bitter winter winds blowing through the Avila campus comes a chilling buzz word: censorship.

As a Catholic liberal arts school, Avila operates under a type of duality. Sometimes liberal arts tend to push boundaries that the Church would rather keep in the name of traditional values. Such is the case with the Theater program which was asked by Avila President Dr. Larry Kramer to remove certain words from *Getting Out* because of their "offensive" nature.

Kramer's decision stems from the public nature of the theater performances. He said he felt such language is not reflective of the Avila Community Values, and therefore should be removed from the original script and replaced with more acceptable synonyms. As Academic Dean Sr. Marie Harris pointed out, "as a Catholic college, we may not be able to do (certain performances)."

Kramer also said that anything of a public nature, such as art exhibits, will be treated in a similar fashion, and that theater students should "find the need to make the adjustment," since they might work in a high school or community theater.

So far, administrative action has not become outrageous. The theater continues to deal with relevant social issues, with only slight modifications in the script. As long as the program and the administration continue their good relationship, which Sr. Harris stressed is the status quo, the level of censorship should be kept at a minimum.

The potential problem, however, is where the censor-

ship will end. For now, simply because of the nature of the college, changing a few words is insignificant compared to what the college could instruct the theater to do, such as not perform anything of a controversial nature or remove everything offensive from future shows. Right now, the theater is trusted to make its own changes, rather than be told what it can and cannot do.

Additionally, since a certain level of censorship has been established, what will stop more from coming in the future? Will SUB movies be next? ATV? *The Talon*? The Art program? The everyday classroom? Right now, the line has been drawn at public exhibitions, but this line could be moved at the whim of the president. What right does the student have in hearing what he or she wants to hear? More specifically, what right does the theater student have to act in whatever type of performance he or she wishes?

The Catholic identity of our college, according to one member of our religious community, is "trying to create well rounded people; thinkers. That doesn't mean we're wanting to do that through uniformity, that everyone has to think alike. The Catholic tradition is an educational tradition."

College is a time for adults, young and old, to discover more about the world around them; for students to establish their own boundaries, not have boundaries established for them. The administration should keep in mind that, by definition, the nature of education is drawing out knowledge, not hiding it.

## From the Editor...



by Monica Haugsness

### 14 days and counting

When this issue leaves the press and falls into the hands of its faithful readers there will only be 14 days remaining in the semester. This final issue also translates into 14 days before my college career is complete.

The final 14 days will be filled with nail biting, headaches and extreme stress as I struggle to juggle course work, projects, finals and the all important search for a job. This countdown will be constantly drilled into my brain as well wishers and curious seekers badger me with the ever popular question, "So, what are you going to do once you graduate?"

With a deep breath, I reply, "Find a job," as the anxious state of uncertainty causes butterflies to pirouette in the pit of my stomach. The pressure is on from family, friends, professors, and most importantly, me.

No one says, "Hey, are you taking a month off to recuperate from the sixteen and a half years spent sitting in a classroom, taking notes, toting books, pursuing what is termed as a higher education?" No one recognizes the deer caught in the headlight glaze of the approaching graduates' eyes as they stare at an unknown future. No one remarks, "There is nothing wrong with completing college in December and not having a job right away." Graduates are simply reminded, "Don't look too desperate, employers can sniff desperation a mile away."

What, be desperate, never! The future is simply a blank sheet, but the moment a potential employer expresses interest I will refrain from bowing and kissing their feet.

The desperation results from the fact that for sixteen and a half years I have dedicated my entire being to education. I have spent the past four and a half years living in a utopia. As a full-time student living on campus, I have known the joys and luxury of residence hall life where all the utilities and meals are furnished. My existence and efforts have been concentrated on studies and the essential extra-curricular activities, which will look so impressive on a resume.

Each year I simply progressed upward. But, as a senior, there is no solid plan, no obvious next step. Sure, if I was interested in remaining in an educational setting I could apply for graduate school and postpone the inevitable a spell longer, at least then there would be a concrete step to take. Exhausted by school routine, I desire to apply my knowledge in "The Real World."

There are no words of wisdom which can prepare students for the agony they shall endure as graduating seniors. No sure-fire answer on how to balance course work and a job search. (If there is, I would like the person with all the answers to forward them to me A.S.A.P. I'll even pay the postage).

However, there are a few small ways in which the stress could be assisted by the appreciated well wishers and concerned parties. Those who have been through the fearful future jitters, should pause a moment and recall their experience and give encouragement instead of increasing anxiety. Consider providing best wishes for finals and reminders that passing is just as important as finding a job. Simply, pat students on the back and congratulate them for accomplishing a terrific feat, graduating from college. Finally, emphasize that they will not be a failure if graduation rolls around and they have not landed a job just yet.

These are a few thoughts I shall continually remind myself of as I am daily presented with the number one asked question, what are your future plans? I believe I will even try a new response, without hesitation I shall proclaim, "I am going to take my place in society and continue my career as a full-time student in the school of life (A.K.A. 'The Real World')."

## Q & A Campus Talk

by Dave Sheller

### What was the weirdest or strangest Christmas you have ever experienced?

Christopher "G" Gerlt, Fr.  
Tech Theater



"When I was eight years, old my grandparents hired a Santa Claus to come and give presents to all the grandchildren. When he walked to the front door he slipped on the ice and broke his leg. We called the ambulance and it took him to the hospital. That was the year I learned that Santa Claus was not real."

Julie Coffey, Sr.  
Theater/Math



"My mother was in labor while we were opening presents. She wanted us to enjoy Christmas so she didn't tell anyone until all the presents were opened. As soon as the last gift was unwrapped we all went to the hospital and my brother was born."

### The Talon Staff

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Monica Bullock.....News/Sports Editor  
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Steve Iliff.....Adviser

### The Talon's Editorial Policy

*The Talon* is produced by the students in Avila College's journalism practicum classes and other student contributors. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of *The Talon* staff or the trustees, administration, faculty or staff of the college.

*The Talon* encourages letters to the editor. Letters should be typed and must include writer's signature, name, address and telephone number for verification. Letters can be mailed to *The Talon* editor, Avila College, 11901 Wornall Rd., Kansas City, Mo 64145, or may be brought to *The Talon* mailbox in Dallavis Center. Letters may also be submitted via e-mail. *The Talon* address is: Talon @ mail.avila.edu.

Please keep letters to 300 words or less. *The Talon* reserves the right to edit letters for reason of space, clarity or inappropriate language. The writer's name will accompany all published letters.

Amanda Nedrud, Jr.  
Media Comm.



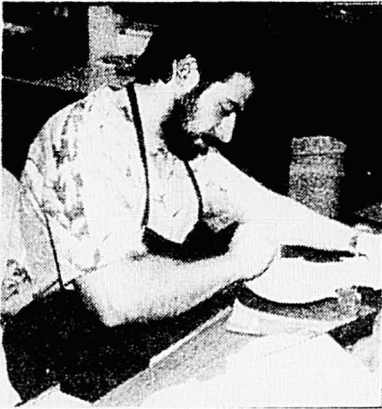
"When my family and I drove to California, the transmission went out, except for reverse. So we drove in reverse until we got to an auto shop. We spent the day before Christmas, and the day after, in a Holiday Inn. We had pizza for dinner and opened our presents while watching a pay-per-view movie."



## K.C. Strings: Artfully handcrafting violins

by Kelly Turner

*"The presenter of the concert in Bamberg, Germany was actually convinced it was a Stradivarius..."* -Leila Josefowics, touring soloist



ANTON KRUTZ, OWNER OF K.C. STRINGS WORKS ON A PIECE OF WOOD, SOON TO BE A NEW VIOLIN.

photo by Dave Sheller

Nestled among the old tattered buildings on Merriam Drive in

Merriam, Kansas, a little touch of culture and craftsmanship can be found. "There's not just barbecue in town. There's also classical music," Anton Krutz, owner of K.C. Strings, said.

Handcrafting instruments since the age of 12, Krutz, now 27, has had the opportunity to work in several prestigious shops, including the shop of Philip Injean, located across the street from Carnegie Hall in New York.

Choosing to leave the stressful, fast-pace of New York behind, and hoping to enrich the area's culture, Anton came to Kansas City to join his father, Misha Krutz, and partner Rick Williams, to open K.C. Strings in 1992.

Since then, K.C. Strings Violin Shop has been restoring and handcrafting stringed instruments equally comparable to fine Italian instruments.

As a result of this talented alliance, the shop has grown rapidly, and has added even more



ANTON KRUTZ CAREFULLY PLACES THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON ONE OF HIS HAND-CRAFTED VIOLINS.

photo by Dave Sheller

expertise to its staff. The addition of Judi Adjatikenyatta, a master woodwind technician, has transformed the string shop into a woodwind shop as well.

K.C. Strings has produced instruments for various professional performers and advanced amateur musicians world-wide, including the famous Michael Karlsson, who is the Concertmaster of the Gothenburg Symphony, and Wendy Putman, Concertmaster of the Louisiana Philharmonic.

"These people have played on \$100,000 or more instruments...these people have tried the best instruments in the world...these people have the choice of any instrument they want, yet they chose to play this one," Krutz said. "It is a real confidence booster."

Through their broad range of expertise, K.C. Strings hopes to help revive

and introduce culture to the area. "Kansas City has a very, very low reputation nationwide for culture," Krutz said. "Kansas City is never going to get a repu-

tation nationwide unless its art has a reputation.

"I don't care how well the Chiefs do, I don't care how well the Royals do, you're never going to get a reputation nationwide until the arts are established here—and this is where it starts."

Although Krutz believes that building a cultural reputation is the responsibility of the entire community, he realizes the opportunity he has as a violin maker to get the process started.

"This is something besides just repairing violins and having a service for a certain clientele...this is a building of a reputation that gets a city known and put on a map," Krutz said.

"Every time a soloist travels, in the program guide, it says what they're playing on. If it keeps saying, it's a violin made by Anton Krutz from Kansas City... whether they are in London or Chicago, that is what will get Kansas City put on the map," Krutz said.

## Play Review: A Wonderful Life? American Heartland version is a wonderful failure!

by Katie Wilkerson

Poor Frank Capra, I bet he is rolling over in his grave. The American Heartland Theatre (AHT) has sufficiently managed to ruin his heartwarming Christmas masterpiece, *It's a Wonderful Life*, by making it into a second-rate musical.

While the concept sounds reasonable, the final effect was disappointing. All of the magic and good feeling that comes from the Capra classic has been eliminated.

I have always been touched by the movie, but the musical appeared to evoke no emotion, whatsoever, from the audience.

There was nothing in the production that made it a poorly produced play, but if anyone has seen the movie version, I really do not suggest wasting the money to see the AHT production.

The costumes, choreography and set design were very good, and seemed to fit the time period very well, but they did little to aid the misfit music.

The movie was not meant for the stage. Scenes were adapted to fit the theater,

obviously, but I could not help comparing Capra's dance scene where George and Mary fall into the swimming pool to the watered down, uninteresting AHT adaptation.

Another example of this would be the moment George, in the stage performance, attempts to jump in front of a train instead of off the bridge.

Not much time was spent on what it would be like if George had never been born. This is vital in order to understand the message of the piece.

It is the dreamland reality that brings everything together and makes George realize that he really did have a wonderful life. The gloss-over on the stage did not effectively portray Capra's message.

For me, the viewing of *It's a Wonderful Life* is as much of a part of Christmas as milk and cookies for Santa Claus.

If you truly wish to feel Christmas spirit in Kansas City, either rent the movie version of *It's a Wonderful Life*, or go see The Missouri Repertory's 16th annual production of Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*, which lives up to its degree of excellence.

## Cinema Scenes: Ransom and Gibson worth a few bucks



by The Mystery Reviewer

"We have Sean, and we want two million dollars."

*Ransom* starts out like a typical kidnapping movie. There is a child victim, kidnappers, the FBI, and the New York City Police Department.

The good thing about the movie was the fact that Gibson, a wild man himself, and in spite of his own personal criminal crisis to deal with, shows no mercy or shame in his efforts to enrage an already psychotic group of people by totally refusing to meet their demands.

One problem with the movie was the way Rene Russo's character, as the mother, is portrayed.

This movie has such a clever plot, one would think that a contemporary remake of the film would include a character remake as well.

Russo's responsibility is

### Movie Reviewed:

*Ransom* rated R

Directed by:  
Ron Howard

Executive  
Producer:  
Todd Hallowell

Written by:  
Cyril Huma,  
Alexander Ignon  
& Richard Price

Starring:  
Mel Gibson,  
Rene Russo,  
Gary Sinese

primarily that of a stand-by-your-man kind of woman.

In the original 1956 version of *Ransom*, Donna Reed was cast as the mother, and everybody knows that Donna Reed was known to epitomize motherhood in the '50's.

At one point in the movie, Russo does attempt a meeting with the kidnappers to negotiate her own deal.

Capable of dealing with only the male head of the household, the kidnappers beat her to a pulp instead.

Russo is then directed to the role of the nurturer, soothing the horrific emotional distress suffered by Gibson.

There are scenes in which the violence seems especially gruesome, but in keeping with Hollywood tradition, the lunatics usually get their guts blown out, and this film is no exception.

One other thing I noticed was missing from the movie was the fact that Mel Gibson does not appear, at any time, naked. Naked or not, it is always worth a few bucks to see Mel on the big screen.



# Thornhill displays talent: Senior Art Show opens soon

by Molly O'Connor

Thornhill Gallery always has fascinating artwork on display.

Anyone who visits the gallery on a regular basis is well aware that a variety of masterpieces are continuously moving in and out of the art gallery for short periods of time.

There is always something new and unique to be seen, usually from a different time, culture, or a distant region of the country.

But the Thornhill Gallery not only serves as a resource for Avila students, to experience the work of artists from around the world, it also provides the opportunity for Avila students to display their work.

From the week of Dec. 6 through 13, while most Avila students will be busy cramming for finals, seniors Lori Niermeier and Angela Vittorino-Wells will be exhibiting a variety of art work for Avila's Fall Senior Art Show.

"The Senior Art Show is required of all Studio Art majors before they graduate," said George Chrisman, curator of Thornhill Gallery. "It's a culmination of all four years of their art work. They submit their work to the gallery where it is reviewed by Susan Lawlor, coordinator of the Art program, their principle instructors, and me."

Vittorino-Wells has been anticipating the show for quite awhile.

"I had to collect frames, choose the pieces I wanted to display, and price them," Vittorino-Wells said.

She has invested a great amount of her time preparing for the show, and she plans to exhibit work from a variety of mediums such as photography, paintings, and figure drawings.

Vittorino-Wells believes that the pieces she has chosen for the show



SENIOR ART SHOW PARTICIPANTS LORI NIERMEIER AND ANGELA VITTORINO-WELLS.  
photo by Dave Sheller

reveal her ability to grow and improve her artistic talents.

"I use foreshortening in a lot of my pieces," Vittorino-Wells said. "It's always been a challenge for me to draw foreshortening."

Vittorino-Wells also feels that her art work especially emphasizes her love of nature.

Niermeier is also looking forward to the event. She will be presenting several of her photographs, drawings, watercolor and oil paintings, and a few ceramic pieces for the show.

"The hardest part is buying the frames, deciding what pieces I want to show and sell, and what I want to hold on to," Niermeier said. "I have a hard time letting go of anything, but I'm going to need the money."

Niermeier feels that one of her

best characteristics as an artist is her ability to see different aspects and use unique colors that most people overlook.

"There truly are a variety of colors that compose a picture," Niermeier said. "I like to use different, bright colors that others usually don't see as being part of reality."

After graduation, both Vittorino-Wells and Niermeier plan to pursue degrees in Art Therapy.

"They are both very dedicated students," Chrisman said. "They will succeed because their talents are very strong."

All Avila students are welcome to visit the gallery to see the Senior Art Show.

Chrisman states that Avila's entire Art program is excited about the show.

"It's one of the fun, fun things we do every year," Chrisman said, "because it's nice to see how students uphold on a professional level."

## Cocoa & Carols



by Laura Harris

The Christmas festivities will begin at 4 p.m. on Dec. 8 with the annual Christmas Concert. It will take place on the Avila campus in Goppert Theater, but with a twist this year.

There will be the usual Christmas Concert, but after the tree lighting there will be a special treat of cocoa.

The special new twist will be when the newly formed Show Choir sings at the tree lighting.

As tradition dictates, the Avila Singers will perform first. This year they will be performing Christmas selections from all time periods beginning at the Baroque period.

There will be a few solo performances. One of the solo performers is Reba Jones, but there are others that are going to be displaying their talents as well.

Once the Avila Singers perform, everyone will venture outdoors for the lighting of the Avila Christmas tree.

This is scheduled to take place around 4:15 p.m. The fir tree that is going to be decorated and lighted is located between Blasco Hall and Marian Center.

During the lighting of the tree, carols will be sung by the Show Choir, which is new to the Avila Arts Program this year.

The Show Choir was started at the beginning of this year, and this will be their second performance. The first was on Pava Day, and all the Show Choir members felt it was a success.

"The Show Choir is very excited; this will be a great chance to show off our hard work and make ourselves known to people on campus," said Kate Lynn Egan, founder of the Show Choir.

The newly formed Show Choir realized that this was the perfect opportunity to get involved in the festivities and let others see the time and hard work they have invested.

"In order for Show Choir to get recognition, we must first prove that we deserve it. This is a great chance for us to do so," Egan said.

After the concert and lighting of the tree outside, refreshments will be served indoors.

This is where the cocoa part of the evening comes in. The Christmas Concert and performances that precede the lighting of the tree is a tradition on the Avila campus.

This event is sponsored by various organizations, along with the Music program.

The Student Union Board and the Alumni Association have all had a part of the planning this year.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this annual event to help the students and faculty of Avila College get into the Christmas spirit.

## In the Arts

### Theater

*A Christmas Carol*-The Missouri Repertory Theatre presents its 16th annual holiday favorite.

Runs through Dec. 29 in Spencer Theatre. For ticket information call (816) 235-2700.

*A Wonderful Life*-musical play based on Frank Capra's holiday film favorite. Runs through Jan. '5.

For ticket information call (816) 842-9999.

### Music

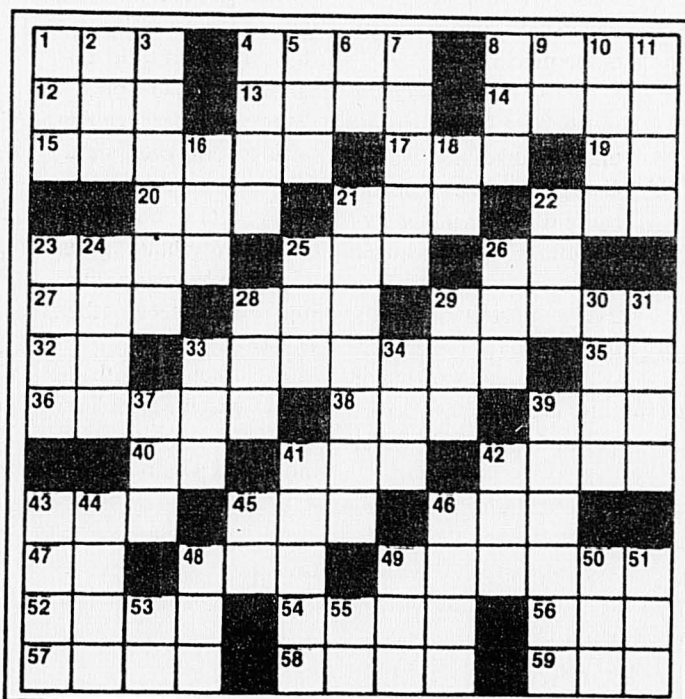
*Annual College Christmas Concert*-Dec. 8 at 4 p.m. in Goppert Theater. No admission.

Tree-lighting ceremony following in the Quad. Reception immediately afterwards in Goppert lobby.

### Visual Arts

*Senior Art Show*-Featuring the work of Angie Vittorino-Wells & Lori Niermeier. Dec. 6-13 in Thornhill Gallery; no admission.

## Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

1. Fermented beverage
4. Treaty
8. Disastrous
12. Major political party (abbr.)
13. Smell
14. Spoken
15. Degrade
17. Verb
19. Tantalum symbol
20. Due
21. Bind
22. Marshland
23. Additional (abbr.)
25. Feel ill
26. 3.14159
27. Course
28. Make a choice
29. Doctrine
32. Division of the Bible (abbr.)
33. Betrayal
35. Prosecutor (abbr.)
36. Potter's wheel
38. Neither
39. Edge
40. Old English (abbr.)
41. Storage container
42. Allot
43. Dine
45. Muscular contraction
46. Broom
47. Large City (abbr.)
48. Cut wood
49. Many
52. And
54. Gem
56. — Rogers (cowboy)
57. Low speed
58. Story
59. Golf peg

### DOWN

1. Total
2. Confederate
3. Make corporeal
4. Model
5. Lemon drink
6. Path
7. To track
8. Female deer
9. Iridium symbol
10. Appraise
11. Dash
16. Grass tip
18. In reference to
21. Very large
22. Fish appendage
23. Gone without permission (abbr.)
24. Information
25. Monkey
26. Writing instrument
28. Pacific NW state (abbr.)
29. High rock
30. Blue pencil
31. Gentle
33. Article
34. Male child
37. Foot digit
39. Detailed account
41. Prejudiced person
42. Molecule (abbr.)
43. Exclamation of grief
44. High
45. At
46. Man
48. Below average
49. Girl (slang)
50. Fish eggs
51. Sight organ
53. Thus
55. Egyptian sun god



## SPORTS

## Sporting My Mind

**T**is the season to be happy, and since this is the last issue until the new year, I have decided to make up my own wish list for the upcoming year. Some may not agree with what I have put on my wish list, but, then again this is not your Christmas list. If I could have anything in the sports world it would be. . .



MONICA BULLOCK

**\*\*The Kansas City Royals** could somehow get Mark Gubiza back in a Royals uniform. He was the last standing member of the 1985 World Championship team, and getting rid of the last person linking Kansas City to that year is not wise.

**\*\* The Chicago Bulls** win the NBA Championship again. They did not really lose anyone from last year's team. Now had they lost

Dennis Rodman, or had Michael Jordan decided to retire for a second time, I think the championship could go to anyone in the NBA.

**\*\* Tommy Morrison** would go back into retirement. I know that he wants to continue to fight, to show that just because you have HIV, you do not have to give up, but running the risk of infecting someone else is too high. Tommy, I respect you when you told young kids not to consider you a role model any more because you were no longer one. However, now you are telling those kids that it is okay to have HIV and be proud of it.

**\*\* To the die-hard fans of the Kansas City Chiefs**, do not start the season with too high expectations. Before this season even started, you said that they would go on and win the Super Bowl. I know anything is possible, however, sometimes you can set your sights too high and you are crushed when it does not happen. I still believe the Chiefs can win it all this year, but I wish the city, the media, and the fans would not put them on a pedestal before it is all over.

These are just a few of my Christmas wishes. Whether or not my sports Santa will allow them to come true is another thing. A very comfortable easy chair, a nice, piping hot bowl of popcorn and a cold beer to wash it all down, may help a little.

From my easy chair to yours, Happy Holidays sports fans.

## Lady's soar into new season

by Amanda Nedrud

The lady Eagles basketball team improved their record to 2-0 as they won their home opener, taking an 80-76 decision over Graceland College. This is the second time in this early season that they have defeated Graceland College.

"We are playing well right, now but we have had poor shooting," said junior guard/forward Delaina Renfro. "We have shot only 32 percent from the field and 67 percent from the free throw line. However, our defensive pressure has been tough."

Leading the Eagles scoring charge was sophomore forward/center Kelly Schnepf, who had 14 points. Junior forward/center Jessica Pankey also added 12 points and pulled down 11 rebounds. Senior forward/center Amy Hamm also chipped in with 12 points.

"We need to work on a few areas, but other than that we are playing hard," said senior forward Carla Miller. "We also have been playing together as a team, and that is an important factor in our first couple victories."

## Men's basketball season underway

by Amanda Nedrud

The Avila Eagles won for the first time this season, as they beat Ottawa College 66-57. That win brings the Eagles record to 1-1.

"I can't say enough about our defense," said Head Coach Fred Turner. "They have really stepped up and carried us."

Senior point guard Eric Greble agreed with Turner, adding, "Our defense kept us in the game and probably won the game for us."

Leading the Eagles was junior center George Mallon, who had 24 points and 6 rebounds. Mallon was also named MCAC player of the week. Senior guard Ben Kimminau also added 12 points and sophomore forward Terrel Tigner pulled down 12 rebounds.

"All and all we are playing good. These guys are really working hard," said Turner. "Some how it will all come together, it just takes time and hard work."

The Eagles will be on the road a lot over winter break, including trips to Liberty, Mo. and Mt. Vernon, Iowa.

They will come back home on Jan. 6, when they will take on Baker University.

## Athletic Department gets new attractions

by Kari Donnell

New and improved attractions may be drawing more attention towards Avila's athletic programs. With the addition of new scoreboards, better sound systems, more advanced weights, and even cushioned chairs displaying the Avila logo, both the athletes and the audiences' interests are growing rapidly.

Over the last couple of years, Mike Crozier, Avila's athletic director, and Jim Huber, Jr., the assistant athletic director, have looked at the needs of the college's athletics program.

"We were hoping to make games more of an event for the students, and thought these additions would really make a difference," Huber said.

Yet, for all of these accommodations to be possible, proper funding was mandatory. Corporate sponsors such as Coca Cola, Pepsi, Hy Vee, Subway, and other local businesses chipped in to Avila's cause. Teaming up with these supporters has allowed the athletics program to prosper.

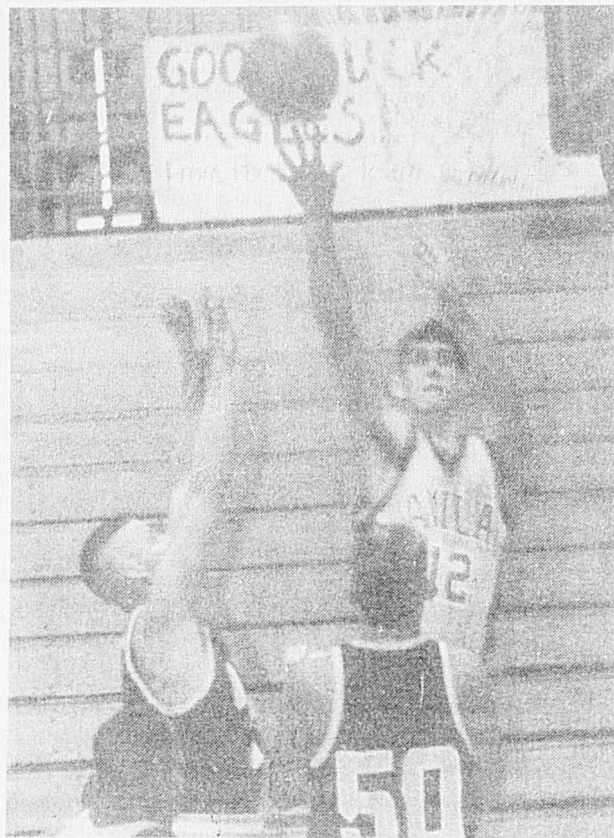
Students, who religiously attended competitions here at Avila, often found themselves filling in dead space during half-time and time-outs. Now, thanks to the new sound systems in the gym and outside on the playing fields, music fills the void and adds extra excitement to all activities.

"The music gets everyone hyped up and in to what's going on," senior Adam Holst said.

Starting in January, games in the Mabec Fieldhouse will be brought to life with a gigantic hanging scoreboard. Fans in every corner of the gymnasium will be able to check out the score on the board hanging from the rafters. However, that is not the only scoreboard that Avila is investing in. After several years of sharing, both the men's baseball team and women's softball team will have their own board. This new scorekeeper will be placed on the softball field, and will be convenient when both diamonds are occupied by Avila's athletes.

Not only does the money donated by sponsors go directly to the athletics program, but to the fans as well. A local corporate sponsor will play host at every home basketball game. At half-time of these games, prizes will be awarded to lucky audience participants. By simply attending games, fans may take home gift certificates to Subway, or even to Coleman's Diamonds.

"We're a small college, but we're trying to show the community that we have good athletes and they need the support," Huber said about the building of Avila's athletics program. With strong teams, good facilities, and corporate promotions, greater interest in Avila is bound to evolve.



NUMBER 12, FRESHMAN DANNY MUDGE, LEAPS TO MAKE A BASKET.

photo by Dave Sheller

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